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COUNTERTERRORIST CENTER

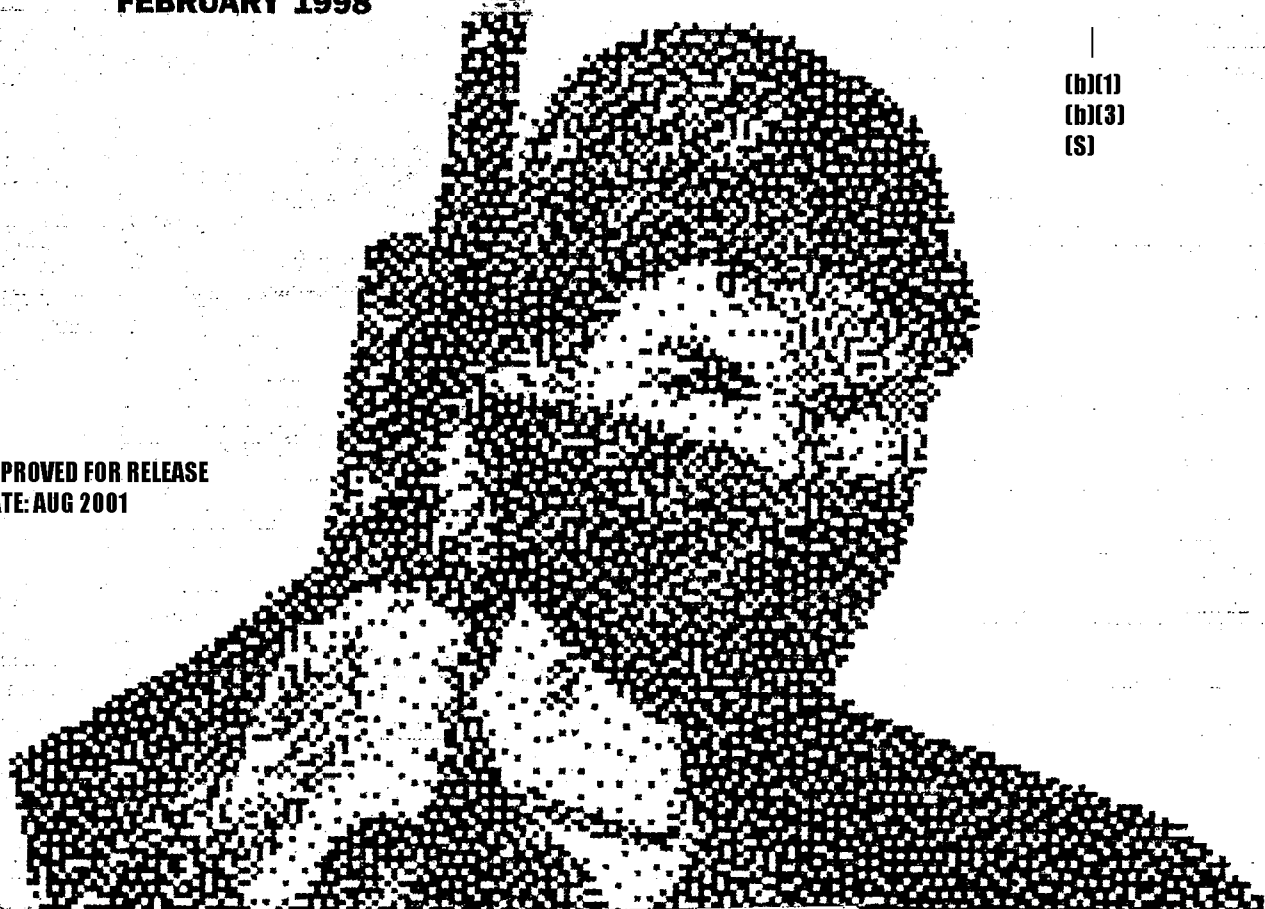
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TERRORISM REVIEW

FEBRUARY 1998

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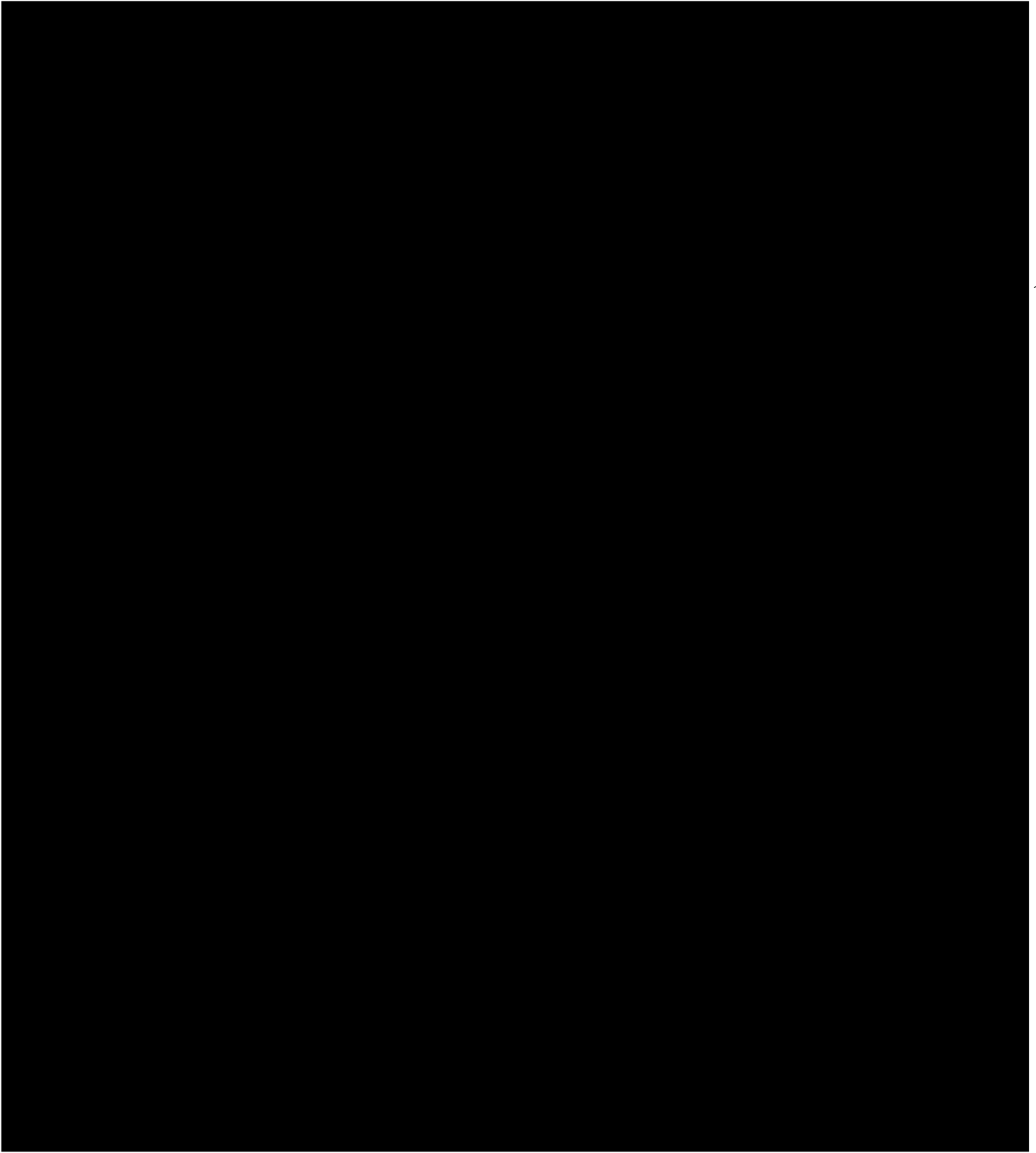


CIA/DI TR 98-002

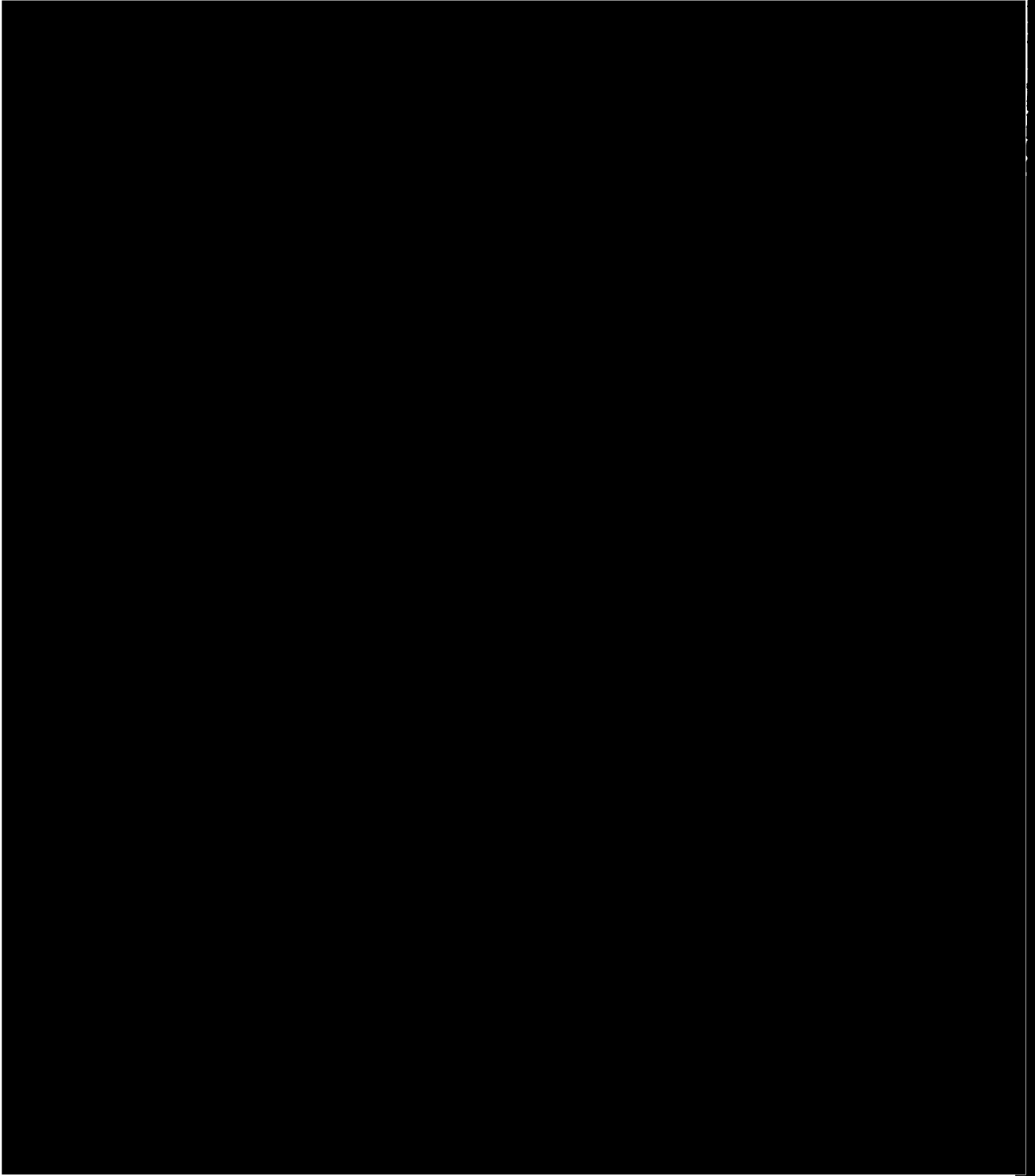
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DI TR 98-002
February 1998

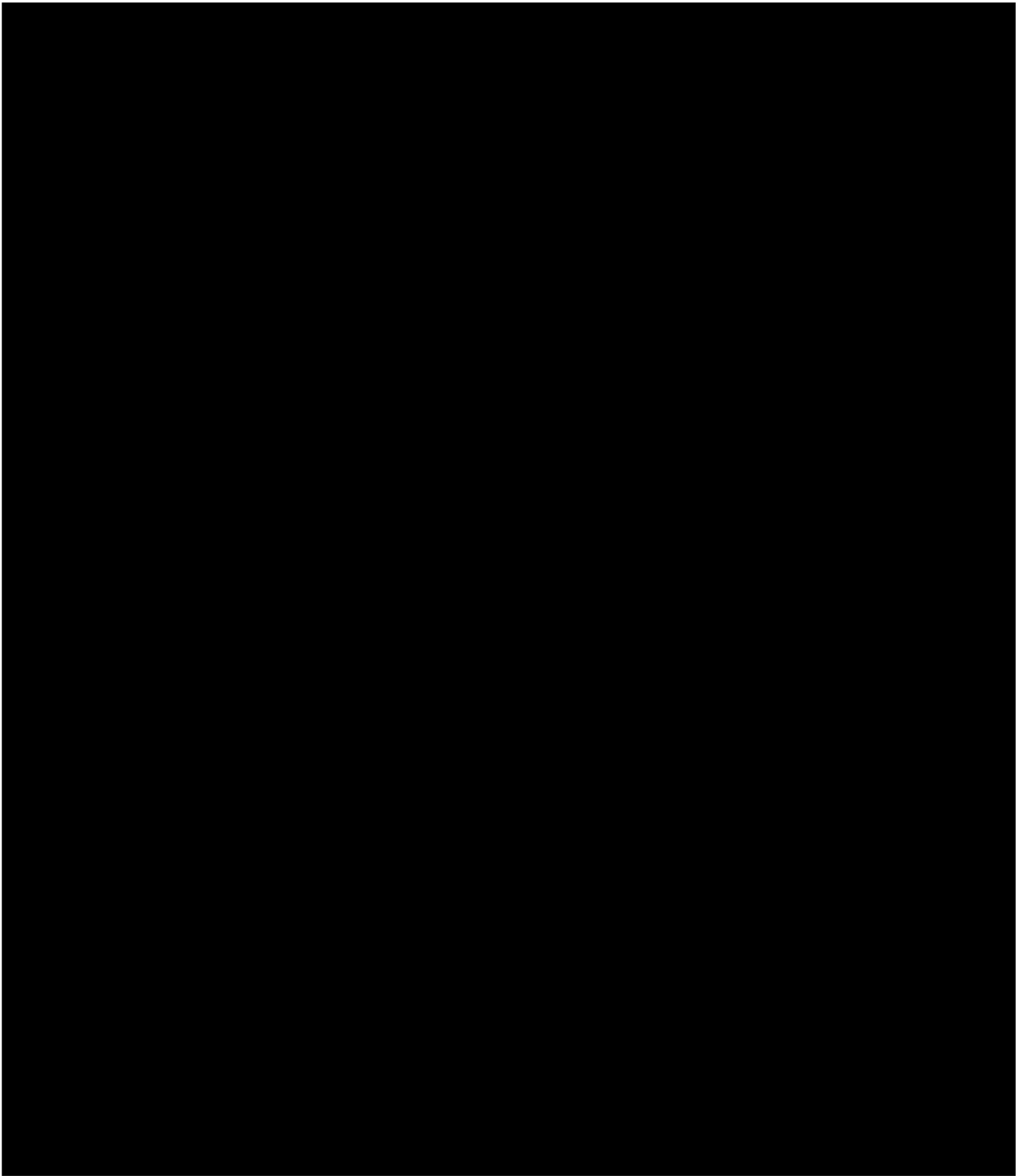
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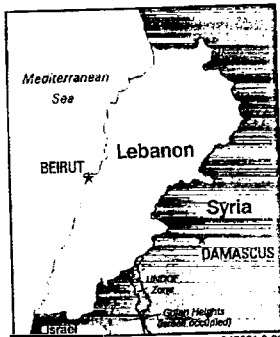


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Middle East

Lebanon



Former Hizballah leader
Tufayli

Plans To Prosecute Shaykh for Marine Barracks Bombing

Lebanon's highest court announced during the first week in February that it intends to try ousted former Hizballah leader Tufayli for the deaths of two Lebanese soldiers—killed in a recent shootout with Tufayli followers—as well as for crimes he committed during the civil war, including the bombing of the US Marine Corps barracks in 1983:

- A month after the shootout, Tufayli remains at large. Tufayli and several hundred supporters are hiding in the mountains near the border with Syria. The Lebanese Armed Forces have deployed to the area but have not moved to capture Tufayli because of political concerns.

Despite Lebanon's initiatives, a variety of reporting suggests that Tufayli never will stand trial for his crimes but rather may be granted asylum in Syria or Iran. Hizballah and other elements in Lebanon cannot afford to make a martyr out of Tufayli by killing him or publicly bringing him to trial and are looking for a face-saving way to remove him from the scene,

- Before his confrontation with the Army began, Tufayli faxed a statement to local newspapers threatening to reveal information detailing who was responsible for "events of the past."

Lebanese Prime Minister Hariri probably believes trying Tufayli for his past crimes, such as the Marine barracks bombing, will demonstrate to the United States that he is following through on bilateral security arrangements, including prosecuting those who committed crimes against US citizens during the war:

- Hizballah, Iran, Syria, and many Lebanese officials are likely to support quietly removing Tufayli from Lebanon because he could implicate them in a variety of illegal activities, including terrorist operations against US citizens. Tufayli's disappearance will help eliminate overt criticism of Hizballah and strengthen the group's influence in the Lebanese Government.